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the slow procedures customary in the Italian Parliament, it would be remarkable, even with all other factors favorable, if a vote could be obtained before the summer recess.

I feel incapable of making any prediction regarding what might take place in France. Here, Indo-China holds first place in Parliamentary and popular interest, with EDC a close second. The passion of the opponents of the European Army idea is at its highest pitch, and the Government -- in my estimation, unfortunately and ill-advisedly -- has not taken the steps necessary to precipitate the unavoidable debate. When it comes, if it does so within the next couple of months, the margin one way or the other as things now appear will be very close indeed.

I have been busier for the last week or ten days than I have at any other time in the last twelve months. We have no plans for the spring or summer beyond the expectation of remaining in Europe at least until the French Parliament has voted one way or the other on this proposition. I feel a little as if my feet were sunk in cement and I cannot wrench myself loose.

Evangeline and the children are well and all -- especially the children -- wanting to go home. I tell them, without much effect, this attitude is partly due to the weather, which has been foul.

With love to Alice and yourself, I am

Ever yours,

David Bruce

P.S. Re the Italian matter, I have heard no word of it except in your letter and one other from home. It is absolutely inconceivable to me that such an offer would be made. My own desire is to get away from Europe as soon as possible, and be free to say and do what I want.

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